Alberta Treasury
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 2, 2001 TO MARCH 9, 2001

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Help Wanted Index (1996=100)	February			The help-wanted index is a measure of firms' intentions to hire new workers rather than giving overtime to existing employees. In February the index fell for every province except Saskatchewan (0%). The largest declines were in British Columbia (-5.5%), New Brunswick (-4.6%), Prince Edward Island (-3.5%), and Quebec (-2.4%). Year over year, the index increased for both Canada (0.6%) and Alberta (12.2%).
Alberta	175	-1.1%	12.2%	
Canada	171	-3.4%	0.6%	
Building Permits ($ millions)	January			For Canada, between December and January, total building permits increased by a record 21.5%. Housing permits increased 22.0% from December, a highest increase since 1990. Similarly, non-residential permits increased by 20.9%, strongest performance in 11 years. Most residential and non-residential activity took place in Toronto ($990.8 million) and Montreal ($573.1 million). In Alberta residential permits were up (5.4%), but non-residential permits declined slightly by 0.1%.
Alberta	414.1	3.1%	-15.6%	
Canada	3,793.0	21.5%	17.9%	
Alberta Drilling Activity (monthly average)	February 428	1.4%	6.2%	The total number of active rigs drilling in Alberta increased 1.4% in February to 428 (the highest number of active rigs drilling on record), up from the old record of 422 in January. The number of rigs drilling in Alberta was 6.2% higher than in February 2000.